

**PARK BOARD MEETING
Foster Community Center
March 11, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Kibbey, Adam Hussain, James McClurken, Veronica Gracia-Wing, Paul Holland, Gib King

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rita O'Brien (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT: Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Kellie Brown, Board Secretary; Bob Trezise. LEAP; Scott Dane, Capital Area Soccer League (CASL)

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Kaschinske added Master Plan under updates.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

None

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Veronica Gracia-Wing moved to approve the February 11, 2015 minutes as submitted; seconded by Paul Holland. 6 yeas; 0 nays

Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

Ferris Park Soccer Field

Bob Trezise introduced Scott Dane and stated they met with a group to discuss soccer and different interests in soccer. Trezise stated his interest is from an economic standpoint, but they also looked at it from a parks standpoint, place making perspective and how it impacts neighborhoods. Also how it impacts diversity, accessibility and how do we make it accessible to more kids.

Soccer is a tough game to play pickup games because nets and barriers are needed as well as a number of kids. As far as an economic development perspective we talk in terms of our City and our region becoming a significant global player. Lansing is about the same size as Austin, Texas, but Lansing has not grown as fast. The population growth will be the greatest and named mid-Michigan, greater Lansing, which is estimated at 77,000 in growth. Gross domestic product growth over a ten year study has been second in Michigan.

Soccer is a global sport and we need to make the sport accessible to a diverse population and grow neighborhoods. By putting this in a Lansing neighborhood park this field may be the only one in Michigan but certainly in the region.

Trezise stated they are asking for an \$80,000 seed investment from the City of Lansing from the parks budget. Trezise believes they can triple that amount of money in a matter of months. He contacted the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and they have a place making program partnership with Patronicity for fundraising. If the project is about place making and economic development, and they approve the project, they will match whatever dollar amount we are trying to raise. We will also want to raise another \$80,000 from private donors for a total of \$200,000 to \$250,000.

The hope is to have this going by fall. They have met with the Mayor and the neighborhood and they are all very supportive.

Scott Dane stated soccer is a global game and the common language of the game is the ball. CASL is a 501c3 and they work to ensure funding for refugee teams in their league. Pick up soccer is a lost sport and they want a place for kids to play for free.

Scott Dane provided a picture of a field in Africa that this would be modeled after and facts about the field. The field would be placed on the southwest corner of Ferris Park, place on existing permeable ground. The size is 60' x 120' of synthetic turf with a 48" perimeter kick-board. There would be post and netting on the goals as well as solar light fixtures. This would be a City of Lansing Parks and Recreation asset. Costs are still being established.

Wieland Davco has created a construction timeline and they would like to have the field ready by August. Current collaboration with public and private partners include: Friends of Ferris Park, Downtown Neighborhood Association, LEAP, Wieland Davco, CASL, Truscott Rossman (public relations), Lansing Public Media Center, Bergmann (architecture) and Patronicity for fundraising.

Scott Dane stated there have been 20 fields built across Africa. There have not been any built in the United States and they feel this is a community minded project that can be advertised statewide.

Veronica Gracia-Wing asked how pickup soccer works.

Scott Dane stated a neighborhood kid goes to the field with a ball, another kid see him and joins in and it continues. Whoever shows up gets to play.

The fields in Africa are part of the community center so there is programming of the fields.

Gib King stated social media will be a major way information about pickup games will be spread. He also inquired if the field could be made into an ice rink for dual use.

Scott Dane stated with the type of turf being suggested it could be destructive.

Brett Kaschinske stated the boards are different then what would be required for hockey. But if it is just skating a base would need to be laid down because the field would absorb a lot of heat.

Gib King stated he would like to see cost for dual usage. Also, for grants and outside funding has the health and fitness field been looked into?

Bob Trezise stated Patronicity believes this will tap into a large soccer population.

Gib King inquired if the \$80,000 has to be in place to get the grant. Bob Trezise stated yes the funds have to be secured.

At this time all expert parties involved are donating their time and resources. Scott Dane stated they have approached businesses for donations and they would be recognized, but their names would not dominate the boards.

Veronica Gracia-Wing inquired if there is an educational component for the neighborhood to understand this would be an asset to their neighborhood.

Scott Dane stated yes, they have met and spoke with Gretchen Cochran.

Gib King inquired what type of annual maintenance is involved.

Scott Dane stated racking and smoothing twice a year. Solar lights will be used to make it low maintenance. Specifics are not known until infill is done.

Adam Hussain inquired what the longevity is. Dane stated most companies give a 15 to 20 year warranty and they want to start an endowment fund for long term care.

Paul Holland inquired if there is concern for graffiti on the boards and how it would be removed. Dane stated there is a finish applied that allows for easy removal.

Paul Holland stated he likes the idea of a pickup park, but would consistent use occur for kids who do not live in the neighborhood. Dane stated he believes kids will travel and the uniqueness of the field will have a draw and kids will make the effort to get to the field.

Adam Hussain stated has concerns about policing the field and insuring no one monopolizes the field.

Brett Kaschinske stated this has been discussed and if this occurs monitoring, programming and reservations would need to be put into place.

Paul Holland stated he has concerns that there will inevitably be strife.

Jim McClurken shares the view this field would be over used and questioned the lack of benches for observation. If people can only be on the field for one hour where would they wait?

Scott Dane stated this has been discussed and they want to avoid benches to discourage individuals sleeping on them. They have talked about other unique options, such as stools or other seating options. They want spectators to enjoy watching the games.

Brett Kaschinske stated seating needs to be up 48" to be above the boards. Also, the picture provided does not have sidewalks and ADA accessibility which will be required.

Gib King inquired about surveillance. Scott Dane stated they have spoken with Dr. Knight, President of LCC, and the possibility of WiFi at the park for cameras. The details and specifics of security cameras have not been worked out.

Veronica Gracia-Wing inquired about the nets and can they be cut. Dane stated they have looked into chain link fence for the nets. Gracia-Wing inquired about the appearance. Kaschinske stated the fence can be coated with colored plastic.

RED CEDAR

Bob Trezise stated this is a \$270,000,000 global village. The developers are Joel Ferguson and Frank Kass. Frank Kass is the founding partner for Continental Real Estate Companies located in Columbus, Ohio.

This property could have been sold to probably 20 developers for student housing, however we would have had no control.

There will be student housing and townhouses between the student housing and the riverfront. The 22 acres along the river that is the floodway will remain a park.

In the development agreement the developer has to pay for and build a connected river trail and it will be built to our specifications. They are also required to build a major gateway between MSU and the park.

There will be multi story buildings along Michigan Avenue. We dictated mixed use to include restaurants, retail, hotel and a medical facility. There will be a large employer on the corner of Clippert.

The property located in the flood plain will require a plinth, which will be parking below and above ground to accommodate the flood plain. Cost could be \$50 to \$78 million dollars and the City will pay for one-half of the cost of the plinth through the sale of bonds.

The drain commissioner's assessment encompasses more than Red Cedar, which is the entire Montgomery Drain district.

The development agreement is a balanced agreement that took over a year to write. Council approved it and the agreement states we may proceed to close the sale which is \$7.1 million that will go to parks. The developer must achieve twenty (20) milestones in the agreement, which also protects the City in the agreement.

Rick Kibbey stated if he read this correctly, the plan comes to the Park Board four (4) times for review.

Rick Kibbey inquired if there has been any action from Frandor other than lawsuits. Trezise replied the Judge indicated it is premature.

Adam Hussain inquired what keeps the City from keeping the money on site and not distributing it to the Parks.

Bob Trezise stated it has been said publicly the money will be shared.

CIP Projects

Brett Kaschinske reviewed the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list and costs involved with each project. Each board member was provided a list and had five (5) votes to place on their referred project(s).

The list of CIP projects consisted of:

Kids Camp	\$37,000
City-wide Repair and Maintenance	\$160,000
Parking Lot Repair	\$400,000
Fish Stocking at Crego	\$10,000
Ferris Park Soccer Field	\$80,000
Community Center Updates	\$75,000
Youth Baseball/Softball Field Renovations	\$150,000
Youth Football Complex	\$200,000
Basketball Complex	\$300,000
Michigan Women's Historical Museum	\$90,000
Canoe Kayak Launch/Fishing Pier at Tecumseh	\$50,000
Boat Launch Repairs at Grand River Park	\$80,000
Moore's Park Splash Pad	\$285,000
Total	\$1,917,000

Projects receiving votes:

Kids Camp	3 votes
City-wide Repair and Maintenance	5 votes
Fish Stocking at Crego	1 vote

Ferris Park Soccer Field	6 votes
Youth Baseball/Softball Field Renovations	2 votes
Michigan Women’s Historical Museum	1 vote
Canoe Kayak Launch/Fishing Pier at Tecumseh	3 votes
Boat Launch Repairs at Grand River Park	4 votes

Discussion took place regarding Moores Park pool and engaging the neighborhood to determine if they really want a splash pad. This subject has been before the board for several years, the neighborhood has been advised of the severity of the condition of the pool and the neighborhood association has been asked to attend Park Board meetings.

Veronica Gracia-Wing wants to ensure when Ferris Park is talked about publicly that Lansing Parks and Recreation is in the forefront.

Brett Kaschinske mentioned a new entrance to Groesbeck Golf Course through Ormond Park is being discussed for safety issues. Funding has not been determined, but may be through Public Service.

Rick Kibbey would like to see tree planting included on the CIP list.

OLD BUSINESS

Brett Kaschinske provided a draft proposal from the City of the next three years of projects and funding for the River Trail from the county millage.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted: Kellie Brown, Park Board Secretary
Approved April 8, 2015